

under the Small Business Investment Company License No. 01/01-0348 issued to Southern Berkshire Investment Corporation on October 25, 1989 and said license is hereby declared null and void as of October 16, 1998.

Small Business Administration.

Dated: October 16, 1998.

**Don A. Christensen,**

*Associate Administrator for Investment.*

[FR Doc. 98-28420 Filed 10-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

### Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection Requests and Comment Requests

This notice lists information collection packages that will require submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), as well as information collection packages submitted to OMB for clearance, in compliance with PL. 104-13 effective October 1, 1995, The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

I. The information collection(s) listed below require(s) extension(s) of the current OMB approval(s) or are proposed new collection(s):

1. Application for U.S. Benefits Under the Canada-U.S. International Agreement—0960—0371. The information collected on form SSA-1294 is used to determine entitlement to benefits. The respondents are individuals who live in Canada and file for U.S. Social Security Benefits.

*Number of Respondents:* 1,000.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 15 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 250 hours.

2. Quarterly Statistical Report on Recipients and Payments Under State-Administered Assistance Programs for Aged, Blind and Disabled (Individuals and Couples) Recipients—0960—0130. The information collected on form SSA-9741 is used to provide statistical data on recipients and assistance payments under the SSI State-administered State supplementation program. These data collections are needed to complement the information available for the Federally administered programs under SSA, and to more fully explain the impact of the public income support programs on the needy, aged, blind and disabled. The respondents are State agencies who administer supplementary payment programs under SSI.

*Number of Respondents:* 30.

*Frequency of Response:* 4 times annually.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 1 hour.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 120 hours.

Written comments and recommendations regarding the information collection(s) should be sent within 60 days from the date of this publication, directly to the SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the following address: Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W. Brickenkamp, 6401 Security Blvd., 1-A-21 Operations Bldg., Baltimore, MD 21235.

In addition to your comments on the accuracy of the agency's burden estimate, we are soliciting comments on the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

II. The information collection(s) listed below have been submitted to OMB:

1. Work Activity Report (Self-Employed) 0960-NEW. The information collected on form SSA-820 is used by the Social Security Administration to help determine if an individual meets the disability provisions for entitlement to benefits. The respondents are claimants for initial or continuing entitlement to disability benefits who are or were engaging in substantial gainful activity.

*Number of Respondents:* 100,000.

*Frequency of Response:* 1.

*Average Burden Per Response:* 30 minutes.

*Estimated Annual Burden:* 50,000 hours.

Written comments and recommendations regarding the information collection(s) should be directed within 30 days to the OMB Desk Officer and SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the following addresses:

#### (OMB)

Office of Management and Budget, OIRA, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, New Executive Office Building, Room 10230, 725 17th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20503

#### (SSA)

Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W. Brickenkamp, 1-A-21 Operations Bldg., 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235

To receive a copy of any of the forms or clearance packages, call the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965-4145 or write to him at the address listed above.

Dated: October 16, 1998.

**Frederick W. Brickenkamp,**

*Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.*

[FR Doc. 98-28343 Filed 10-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4190-29-P

## STATE DEPARTMENT

[Public Notice No. 2913]

### Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad; Public Meeting Notice

The Department of State announces a meeting of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad on Wednesday, November 4, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1107 at the U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. The Advisory Committee will focus on a summary of conferences that have addressed the issue of religious freedom and discuss their implications for foreign policy recommendations.

Admittance of public members will be limited to the seating available. In this regard, entrance to the State Department is controlled. One of the following photo IDs will be required for admittance: U.S. driver's license with your picture on it, U.S. passport, or a U.S. government identification (company IDs are no longer accepted by Diplomatic Security). Enter from the "C" Street Main Lobby.

Members of the public wishing to observe the meeting or otherwise desiring more information should contact Alexandra Arriaga, Executive Secretary, Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20520, telephone (202) 647-1422.

Dated: October 20, 1998.

**John Shattuck,**

*Chairman, Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad.*

[FR Doc. 98-28587 Filed 10-21-98; 12:51 pm]

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### Office of the Secretary

[Delegation of Authority No. 225]

### Paperwork Reduction Act Responsibilities; Delegation of Functions

By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of State by Section 1 of the

State Department Basic Authorities Act (22 U.S.C. 2651(a)), I hereby delegate to the Chief Information Officer the authority to redelegate to the Bureau of Administration the functions conferred on the Department of State by the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3506) governing the Department's information collection procedures.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this delegation of authority, the Secretary of State or the Deputy Secretary of State may at any time exercise any function hereby delegated.

This delegation of authority shall be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: September 11, 1998.

**Madeleine K. Albright,**

*Secretary of State.*

[FR Doc. 98-28424 Filed 10-22-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-10-M

## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

### Request for Public Comment: Proposed Determination in Section 301 Investigation Concerning Intellectual Property Laws and Practices of the Government of Paraguay

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed determination and request for written comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Trade Representative (USTR) is seeking public comment on a proposed determination that certain acts, policies and practices of the Government of Paraguay concerning the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights are unreasonable and constitute a burden or restriction on United States commerce.

**DATES:** This action was taken October 16, 1998. Written comments of interested persons are due by noon on November 16, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Claude Burcky, Director for Intellectual Property, (202) 395-6864; Kellie Meiman, Director for Mercosur and the Southern Cone, (202) 395-5190; or GERALYN S. Ritter, Assistant General Counsel, (202) 395-6800.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On January 16, 1998, the USTR identified Paraguay as a "priority foreign country" under the "Special 301" provisions of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2242). In identifying Paraguay as

a "priority foreign country," the USTR noted deficiencies in Paraguay's acts, policies and practices regarding intellectual property, including a lack of effective action to enforce intellectual property rights. The USTR also observed that the Government of Paraguay had failed to enact adequate and effective intellectual property legislation covering patents, copyrights and trademarks. As required under Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2412(b)(2)(A)), an investigation of these acts, policies and practices was initiated on February 17, 1998. On August 4, 1998, the investigation was extended until November 17, 1998, in light of the complex and complicated issues involved. Thus, pursuant to section 304(a)(3)(B) of the Trade Act, the USTR must determine on or before November 17, 1998, whether the Government of Paraguay's acts, policies and practices regarding intellectual property are unreasonable and burden or restrict U.S. commerce.

During bilateral negotiations held to resolve these issues, the Government of Paraguay indicated that it has undertaken and will undertake a number of actions to improve the protection of intellectual property rights in Paraguay. For example, since this investigation was initiated, Paraguay has passed new copyright and trademark laws, and has undertaken efforts to legalize government use of software. The Government of Paraguay also has made efforts to improve enforcement of intellectual property rights, including conducting a number of notable recent seizures of counterfeit and pirated products.

Despite these efforts, significant issues remain unresolved. Piracy and counterfeiting of U.S. products continue to be serious problems in Paraguay. Paraguay remains a major transshipment point from which pirated and counterfeit products are distributed to markets throughout Latin America. Pirated and counterfeit products continue to be widely available in retail outlets, particularly in Ciudad del Este. Moreover, the Paraguayan judicial system fails to provide effective relief for violations of intellectual property rights. There are frequent reports that infringers are not prosecuted, that seized products are not destroyed, that cases are often mishandled, and that judges lack sufficient understanding of intellectual property issues. In addition, the recently-passed copyright law fails to provide that copyright piracy is a "public" criminal offense, and therefore public prosecutors will not enforce its provisions. Finally, Paraguay appears to have made little progress toward

enacting legislation to provide adequate and effective patent protection.

### Proposed Determination

If the issues that are the basis for this investigation are not addressed, the USTR proposes to determine pursuant to section 304(a)(1) of the Trade Act that acts, policies, and practices of the Government of Paraguay with respect to the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights are unreasonable and constitute a burden or restriction on U.S. commerce. In the event the USTR makes such a determination, the USTR also must determine pursuant to section 304(a)(1)(B) what action, if any, to take in response.

### Public Comment

In accordance with section 304(b)(1)(A) of the Trade Act, USTR invites the presentation of views of interested persons concerning the determinations required under section 304(a)(1). In particular, written comments should address: (1) The USTR's proposed determination that the Government of Paraguay's acts, policies or practices concerning the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights are unreasonable and constitute a burden or restriction on U.S. commerce; and (2) what actions, if any, would be appropriate to take in response.

Comments must be filed in accordance with the requirements set forth in 15 CFR 2006.8(b) (55 FR 20,593) and must be filed on or before noon on Monday, November 16, 1998. Comments must be in English and provided in twenty copies to: Sybia Harrison, Staff Assistant to the Section 301 Committee, Room 416, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508.

Comments will be placed in a file (Docket 301-117) open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2006.13, except confidential business information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2006.15. Confidential business information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 2006.15 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page on each of 20 copies, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. The nonconfidential summary shall be placed in the file that is open to public inspection. An appointment to review the docket (Docket No. 301-117) may be made by calling Brenda Webb (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12